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Analyst Said to Have Sought Help From Israeli to Escape Spy Charge

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 22 — A Navy counterintelligence analyst suspected of spying for Israel sought help from an Israeli intelligence agent in escaping arrest and was told the agent "might help" if the two of them could evade American surveillance, according to a Federal law-enforcement official knowledgeable about the case.

Before the Israeli agent could act, the official said, the analyst, Jonathan Jay Pollard, drove to the Israeli Embassy on Thursday and tried to seek asylum. He was arrested outside the embassy gates by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

American officials also said today that the 31-year-old analyst might have provided classified documents to Pakistan as well as Israel. The Israeli Government insisted today that it had no knowledge of Mr. Pollard. A Pakistan spokesman said his country was not involved.

Federal officials said that Mr. Pollard, a civilian Navy employee in a special counterterrorism unit with top-secret security clearance, told law-enforcement agents that he had sold classified documents to both Israel and Pakistan. But one Reagan Administration official said there was reason to believe Mr. Pollard had lied about his purported involvement with Pakistan.

Administration officials have acknowledged that Mr. Pollard's arrest has widespread foreign policy implications and could harm relations with Israel.

"We are shocked and saddened at the notion that something like this might occur," said Charles Redman, a State Department spokesman. "We have been in touch with the Israelis to try and get to the bottom of this. We don't have all the facts."

A law-enforcement official who spoke on the condition that he not be named said that Mr. Pollard contacted an Israeli agent within the last several days, soon after learning that he was under surveillance by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The agent told Mr. Pollard that he would "do what he could" if the Navy analyst was able to "duck surveillance" by the F.B.I., the official said.

Instead, Mr. Pollard drove with his wife into the Israeli Embassy here on Thursday and attempted to seek asylum, officials said. Israeli officials, they said, were apparently surprised by his arrival and escorted him back to the street, where bureau agents arrested him.

Mr. Pollard's wife has not been arrested, and officials said it was unclear if she had participated in an espionage operation. Mr. Pollard has told the authorities that he received about \$50,000 over nearly two years of espionage, Federal officials said.

Mr. Pollard appeared Tuesday before a United States Magistrate, who ordered him held without bail pending a hearing next Wednesday. Mr. Pollard has not entered a plea. If convicted, he would face a sentence of up to life in prison.

The law-enforcement source said that the agents had kept Mr. Pollard under constant watch for several days and followed him to the embassy. The source would not identify the Israeli intelligence agent, nor would the source say how American officials had monitored a conversation between the agent and Mr. Pollard.

In his six years with the Navy, Mr. Pollard had access to highly classified information about the capabilities of foreign navies, and a military official suggested that the Israeli Government might have sought intelligence about Arab fleets.

Administration officials have said they are perplexed by the incident, noting that the United States already shares much of its most sensitive military information with the Israelis.

Since the fall of 1983, Navy sources said, Mr. Pollard had worked in a special Navy intelligence unit dealing with antiterrorism. "I believe they are assigned to figure out where the bad guys are going to strike next," said one military official.

In Jerusalem, officials said Israel had no knowledge of Mr. Pollard. "We don't have the slightest idea about this matter," said the chief Foreign Ministry spokesman, Avi Pazner.

"We are checking that story and after we find out what the facts are, then and only then will there be an official reaction."

An Israeli Embassy official in Washington, who asked not to be named, said that "any activity in the United States of the kind alleged is completely and totally contrary to Israeli policy."

A Pakistan Embassy spokesman in Washington, Mohammad Iqbal Butt, said, "The allegations so far as Pakistan is concerned are baseless."

Prosecutors said that Mr. Pollard was confronted by F.B.I. agents earlier this week with what the prosecutors said was evidence of espionage. At that point, officials said, he agreed to cooperate and possibly implicate others.

On Tuesday, after the bureau had begun talking with Mr. Pollard, law-enforcement agents obtained a suitcase with his name on it "which had been given by Pollard's wife to a third party," according to a criminal com-

plaint filed in Federal District Court here.

"The defendant has stated to the agents that this suitcase contains highly classified documents and information relating to the national defense," the two-page complaint said. "The defendant further stated that he had given these documents and this information to agents of a foreign government."

A high-ranking Justice Department official said that the documents were "highly classified" but did not include photographs. There had been speculation in intelligence circles that Mr. Pollard might have provided the Israelis with sensitive photographs taken by American spy satellites. This is information that is sometimes denied to the Israelis.

The criminal complaint left many questions unanswered about the incident, and it was unclear who the "third party" was.